

August 9, 1995

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Robert Zimmerman
From: W. David Wimberly
Copy: Craig Brown, Susan Cromwell, Rogers Davis, Jo Diercouff, Don McFatrigh,
David Merrifield, Ron Neyman, and Dale Stingley
Subject: July Status

PIKE House

The BASIS teams will be moving to the PIKE house this week. It is a nice facility that will hopefully provide the needed environment to draw the group together as one team. This is desperately needed now, in the wake of the implementation of four systems, due to the problems, frustrations, and stress that have been experienced by all.

Printing

We have developed the prototype for how we will integrate online printing within our applications. The big question will be *where* do we provide this print capability. We also have the model in place to permit the user to designate their desired print destination for Natural submitted batch jobs. The remaining piece is the mechanics for getting the MVS print to the user's network printers. We anxiously await the new MVS TCP/IP version that is to provide the desired method for doing this. In conjunction, we plan to build a table of printers that can be used for user selection of a print destination. This will have to be maintained in sync with the establishment of network printers, their definition in MVS, and their definition in ADABAS TPF. Perhaps some automated interface for these definitions can be accomplished.

Page Back

Over the years, our Natural applications have been faulted for not providing a *page back* facility when listing data. Using SAG's **In Core Data Base**, we have now developed a prototype list function with this feature. The next step is to incorporate this function into our program generator so that it can automatically become available within all our online lists.

University Procurement System (UPS)

Travel subsystem

Our activity has been minimal in this area, with only a few minor problems being reported. This is good and indicates that the system is working as intended. We were able to identify the phantom MSA problem, whose solution was to send transactions that were different than *the way we've always done it*.

Invoice Log

The logging function is 95% complete and in use in production. Five associated invoice lists have also been completed. Financial Affairs has identified this as stage 1 of the new AP system. However, there is a phase 2 (and perhaps 3) of this stage 1 project that has still not been clearly defined that involves integration of this data and process with the new Travel system.

Hourly Time Sheets (HRLY-TS)

This system has been one major headache. We have been identifying problems and fixing them as we go, fortunately before they have caused any serious damage. Unfortunately, the first hourly payroll had to be backed out and rerun due to a user option error completely unrelated to BASIS, and the backout did not restore some key transactions generated by BASIS. Forty-nine people didn't get paid. HR then decided they would manually reenter those transactions, and we've paid the price for that decision because it was not done completely. Add to this incorrect procedures followed in HR when setting up new appointed employees and no one reviewing the MSA-BASIS synchronization reports, and we ended up with a pretty good mess before anyone recognized it. Most of this should not be pinned on BASIS, but I can imagine what people say. I don't doubt that we will have more surprises as we go forward since there doesn't appear to be anyone in HR that really understands this system.

Leave Accounting (LEAVE)

This implementation has gone much better than HRLY-TS, but we have had more than our share of problems here as well. Most of these we have been able to recover from gracefully. The worst has been the fouling up of some leave accrual data requiring the manual checking of about 100 people and an update of 300 by HR. We did have to develop, at the last minute, another version of the Annual Vacation Liability Report because new year salaries were loaded to BASIS before the June leave data was finalized. What bugs me is the lack of foresight by anyone to anticipate such situations, even after encouragement to run this (and other reports) ahead of time just to check them out.

Labor Distribution (LABOR)

Several payrolls have now been loaded with no significant BASIS problems emerging. This is the case even though some test results were not reviewed until after the system was in production. This does not mean that there haven't been problems. We learned August 7th that some of the new explosion rules setup on production (an MSA thing) are incorrect and they have messed up the cash pool in GL. Of course, the first thing suspected by our users was that it was a BASIS problem. More amazing have been revelations of how little our users understand their system. Two of the lead people from HR and Financial Affairs couldn't understand why the percentage fringe benefits in MSA Payroll didn't match LABOR (a major design decision was to calculate the fringe benefit charges in Labor independent from Payroll -- saving everyone extra work and increasing the accuracy of the data). And, the owner of the application and participant (occupant) of our meetings for 14 months didn't understand what a predefined compensation period was, much less enter them before the Overtime/Supplement run.